

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2008

CHS urges consumers not to eat certain types of tomatoes

The Consumer Health Services Division of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture is warning consumers against eating certain types of raw tomatoes that have been linked to an outbreak of salmonellosis.

The warning includes raw red plum, red Roma, and red round tomatoes, and products containing these raw, red tomatoes. It does not apply to cherry, grape, or other tomatoes sold with the vine still attached.

Since mid-April, there have been 228 cases of salmonellosis, nationwide, including at least 23 hospitalizations.

Symptoms of salmonellosis include fever, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting. Life threatening infections can result in young children, frail or elderly people, and people with poor health or weakened immune systems. Individuals experiencing any of these symptoms should contact their doctor immediately. These illnesses should also be reported to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture or a local health department.

Using traceback information, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published a list of states, territories and countries where tomatoes are grown and harvested which have not been associated with this outbreak. This list includes many of the 50 states, as well as Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, Netherlands and Puerto Rico. The complete list is available at www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html. This list will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Information on safe handling of produce can be found at www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dmsprodsafe.html. The FDA has also established a "tomato consumer page", which can be found at www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html. Consumers may also contact the Wyoming Department of Agriculture at (307) 777-7211.

###